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HEADQUARTERS  
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
UNITED STATES ARMY  
Office of the Surgeon  
APO 512

31 August 1945

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 25

SUBJECT: Items 1159000, Cresol Saponated Solution, 1 Qt. and 1160000, Cresol Saponated Solution, 5 Gal.

1. Complaints have been recently received concerning the use of certain stocks of subject items. The complaints specifically applied to the appearance of a white precipitate which forms a very fine suspension upon the addition of water. It appears that this suspension clings tenaciously to agglutination tubes, pipettes, syringes, and other glassware immersed in the disinfectant and is impossible to remove in subsequent washing of the glassware in many cases.

2. Samples of subject items have been examined and laboratory findings confirm these complaints. It was found that the use of hard water may cause the water insoluble components of the emulsion to precipitate and adhere to any instruments or glassware placed in the solution.

3. In view of the above, it is recommended that when subject items are to be used in the disinfecting of instruments, glassware, etc., the following precautions be taken:

a. Soft or distilled water to be used when making dilutions.

b. The addition of a few drops of 10% sodium or potassium hydroxide accompanied by simultaneous stirring if the solution becomes opaque. The addition of one of the above will clear the solution.

For the SURGEON:

*Albert A. Biederman*  
ALBERT A. BIEDERMAN,  
Colonel, M.C.,  
Deputy Surgeon.

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